an inappropriate action that may be caused by:

- an error in the guideline
- misinterpretation of a guideline
- the use of a guideline that is inappropriate for an individual situation.⁸

In a legal case of malpractice, where a guideline has been used out of context, the responsibility of clinical practice remains with the clinician.⁹

CONCLUSION

It is our belief, on the basis of experience, that good-quality guidelines have huge potential to improve care, especially in these days of shifts, with multiple doctors involved in the care of individual patients. However, the development of guidelines requires dedicated resources and a well-defined process. It is best undertaken across a network of cooperating providers. Audit, regular review and updating are essential components of the process.

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IMAGES IN PAEDIATRICS.....

Once bitten, twice shy! A mother's reluctance to put BLS training into use ever again

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A 2-year-old child became cyanosed and apnoeic while having a febrile convulsion. The child's mother, who had previously undertaken Basic Life Support (BLS) training, noticed the bluish discolouration of the child's lips. She was concerned that this had occurred as a result of choking, and attempted to manually pull the tongue forward, sustaining the bite injury as shown in fig 1.

BLS training is given to parents of every child who has undergone a febrile convulsion, and this training is often delivered by junior paediatric staff.¹ It is important to emphasise the ABC approach of BLS training; the first step towards airway opening in the child who is having a fit is to place the child in the recovery position, thereby allowing the tongue to naturally come forwards.² Fingers should not be placed

blindly in the mouth in any resuscitation scenario.³ In the choking child, objects may be introduced deeper into the oropharynx. In the child having a fit, the tone is markedly increased in the muscles of mastication during the ictal period and injury may be sustained, as seen in this patient.

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Figure 1 Finger with bite injury.

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